

tion of Totonicapam and the consequent lack of heat, the fruits are very slow in reaching maturity. The season of ripening is from September until the end of the year, but the fruits which ripen at this time are those from the previous year's bloom—that is, flowers which appeared in May, 1916, developed fruits which were not fully ripe until September or October, 1917.

"The fruit is of medium size, of attractive pyriform shape, smooth, and green in color. The flesh is of good quality, free from fiber, and the seed is comparatively small. It can be considered a fruit of very good quality and desirable from other points of view than that of its probable hardness.

"Following is a formal description of this variety: Form pyriform, rather slender, and slightly necked; size medium, weight 12 ounces, length  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches, greatest breadth 3 inches; base tapering, narrow, the stem inserted almost squarely without depression; stem  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, stout; apex rounded, slightly depressed around the stigmatic point; surface smooth or nearly so, light green and almost glossy, with numerous yellow dots; skin moderately thick, about one-sixteenth of an inch, woody and brittle; flesh deep-cream color, changing to pale green near the skin, free from fiber, and of very rich flavor; quality excellent; seed rather small, conical, weighing about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounces, tight in the cavity, with both seed coats adhering closely." (*Popenoe*.)

See also Exploring Guatemala for Desirable New Avocados, Annual Report of the California Avocado Association, 1917, p. 125, fig. 21; reprint, 1918, p. 24, fig. 20; and The Avocado in Guatemala, U. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 743, p. 50.

#### 44786. *CRYPTOSTEGIA GRANDIFLORA* R. Br. Asclepiadaceæ.

**Palay rubber.**

From Old Fort, New Providence, Bahamas. Presented by Mr. W. F. Doty, American consul, Nassau, Bahamas, who secured it from Dr. Charles S. Dolley. Received May 24, 1917.

A twining shrub, native of India, but cultivated in many places in the Tropics for the rubber obtained from the sap. It has opposite, elliptic leaves and terminal cymes of large reddish purple flowers which bloom all the year. The leaves and stems contain an abundance of latex which yields a quantity of rubber estimated at 2 per cent of the weight of the fresh plant. From the bast fiber of the inner bark a good quality of wrapping paper has been made. The seed coma furnishes a silky floss which can be made into an excellent felt. Propagation is by seeds. (Adapted from C. S. Dolley, *On the Occurrence of Palay Rubber in Mexico, India-Rubber Journal*, May 20, 1911.)

#### 44787 to 44789.

From Ranchi, India. Presented by Mr. A. C. Dobbs, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Chota Nagpur Division. Received May 24, 1917.

#### 44787. *BRASSICA CAMPESTRIS* SARSON Prain. Brassicaceæ. **Sarson.**

An erect annual of rigid habit, cultivated in many places in India for the seeds. There are two forms—one with erect pods and one with pendent pods, the former being the true *sarson* and the latter being found commonly only in northern Bengal and eastern Tirhut. The seed is sown in September, either broadcast or in parallel lines, usually with wheat or barley, and the plants are cut soon after the harvest of the associated crop. *Sarson* is very liable to be attacked by insects and